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ABSTRACT

This two-page guide suggests an eight-step term paper research strategy for students using the Fogler Library at the University of Maine. The student is first guided to encyclopedias for overview articles with bibliographies, then directed to the card catalog; periodical indexes; and indexes for books, journal articles, and newspaper articles. Finally, students are directed to style manuals for assistance in organizing and writing the paper, and for footnote and bibliography preparation. (EW)

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GUIDE TO SOURCES: TERM PAPER STRATEGY

Choose your topic. Possible ideas may come from your professor, textbooks, an encyclopedia article on the subject, or a periodical index.

2. Find a brief introduction or overview of the topic in an encyclopedia, perhaps one of the following:

REF H 35 E35	Editorial Research Reports
REF AE 5 E333	Encyclopedia Americana
REF AE 5 E363	Encyclopedia Britannica
REF LB 15 E47	Encyclopedia of Education
REF B 41 E5	Encyclopedia of Philosophy
REF H 40 A215	International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences
SCI REF Q 121 M3	McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology

Use the index or table of contents. Also note descriptive terms used and names mentioned.

3. Look for a bibliography or list of references at the end of the encyclopedia article. This will lead you to other sources of information on your topic.

4. Books on the topic are listed in the card catalog. Check the Library of Congress Subject Headings (red books by the card catalog) to determine what subject terms are used. You may want to check various terms found in the encyclopedia. Look in the card catalog under the appropriate heading to find books. Note the call numbers needed to locate particular books, as well as noticing call numbers for possible browsing areas in the stacks.

5. Find periodical or magazine articles on your topic using an index such as:

Applied Science and Technology Index	Science Index Table
Biological and Agricultural Index	Science Index Table
Business Periodicals Index	Index Table
Education Index	Index Table
General Science Index	Science Index Table
Humanities Index	Index Table

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InfoTrac	Computer Station
Magazine Index	Microfilm Reader
Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature	Index Table
Social Sciences Index	Index Table

6. Locate newspaper articles on your topic:

National Newspaper Index	Microfilm Reader
Newsbank	Index Table
New York Times Index	Index Table

7. Use the Periodicals Printout to see if the Library has the magazine(s) or newspaper(s) you need and to find where they are located.

8. Use a style manual for assistance in organizing and writing the paper, preparing footnotes, arranging a bibliography, etc. Several style manuals are kept at the Information Desk.

The Information Services Department offers a Term Paper Counseling Service which provides individual assistance with library research for term papers, independent study projects, etc. Check at the Information Desk or call 581-1673 for an appointment.

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